

“Increasing Our Vision” 1 Corinthians 9:24-27

Vision is:

The ability to see – awareness

The faith to believe – attitude

The courage to do - action

Vision – “Hope with a blueprint”

“For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.” Jeremiah 29:11

“The Lord has made everything for His own purposes.” Proverbs 16:4

“My work all seems so useless. I have spent my strength for nothing and for no purpose at all.” Isaiah 49:4

“Where there is no revelation (vision), the people cast off restraint (perish)” Proverbs 29:18

Principle: If you are a follower of Jesus Christ, your personal vision will come by revelation through the working of the Holy Spirit in your life.

What are the vision killers in church?

1. Complacency
2. Carnality
3. Critics

Three truths to remember:

1. You cannot please everyone.
2. You cannot please anyone all the time.
3. You can please God.

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Four characteristics of a great vision:

1. Focus

“One thing I ask of the Lord, this is what I seek; that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, to gaze upon the beauty of the Lord and to seek him in his temple.” Psalms 27:4

"I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the fellowship of sharing in his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, and so, somehow, to attain the resurrection from the dead. Not that I have already obtained all this, or have already been made perfect, but I press on to take hold of that for which Christ Jesus took hold of me. Brothers, I do not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it. But ONE THING I DO: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead. I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus." Philippians 3:10-14

Principles of focus:

1. Focus on the user and all else will follow.
2. It's best to do one thing really, really well.
3. Fast is better than slow.

2. Direction

"Therefore I do not run like a man running aimlessly. I do not fight like a man beating the air." 1 Corinthians 9:26

3. Expansion

"God is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us." Ephesians 3:20

"Do you not know that in a race all the runners run, but only one gets the prize? Run in such a way as to get the prize." 1 Corinthians 9:24

4. Commit

"Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make your paths straight." Proverbs 3:5, 6

"Father, thank you for creating me and loving me. I want to fulfill the purposes that you created me for. So starting today, I really want to get to know and love and trust you. I want my life to bring you pleasure and I want to become a part of your family. Help me to grow more like Your Son Jesus, and to use my life to follow and serve you. Thank you for sending Jesus to die for me. In the weeks ahead, help me to understand your vision and mission for the rest of my life. Amen."